

Email: [eco@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:eco@ofgem.gov.uk)

Date: 16 March 2017

Dear ECO Stakeholder,

### **ECO2t<sup>1</sup> Open letter: Standards of installation for room-in-roof insulation**

Under ECO2, where a measure is referred to in PAS 2030, the installation of the measure must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of PAS 2030. This will continue in the ECO2 extension period (ECO2t)<sup>2</sup>.

A new version of PAS 2030 has recently been published (PAS 2030: 2017 Edition 1) and from 1 June 2017, measures must be installed in accordance with this new version. From 1 April 2017 to 31 May 2017, measures may be installed in accordance with either PAS 2030: 2014 Edition 1, or PAS 2030: 2017 Edition 1.

One of the changes in the new version of PAS is the inclusion of a measure specific annex for room-in-roof insulation (RIRI). Within this annex it recommends that installers take account of guidance provided in '*A guide to retrofit room-in-roof insulation*' ('the new guidance'). This new guidance is planned for publication by 31 March 2017.

At present, we understand that one method used to insulate the sloping ceiling elements of a RIR is to slide insulation boards up into the void areas between rafters and behind the plasterboard. Through the development of the new guidance, industry has found that this approach is not in line with current instructions from PIR/PUR board manufacturers. The new guidance will outline how the sloping ceiling elements of the room in roof (RIR) should be insulated in line with manufacturer's instructions and installation methods.<sup>3</sup> We expect that it will require installers to either:

- remove plasterboard, insert insulation between the rafters, ensuring a good fit, finish the surface internally with insulated plasterboard and then re-plaster the sloping ceiling; or
- overboard from within the RIR.

We recognise that PAS 2030: 2017 Edition 1 recommends, but does not require, that the new guidance is followed in respect of a RIRI installation. It does however include the following clause which is also included in PAS 2030: 2014 Edition 1:

#### ***'5.1.3 Installation methods***

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<sup>1</sup> The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2014, as amended by the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) (Amendment) Order 2017 which was laid before parliament on 8 February 2017, and has not yet been made

<sup>2</sup> Our draft guidance for this scheme can be found here: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/response-eco2t-consultation-part-one-and-draft-guidance-update>

<sup>3</sup> Manufacturer's instructions may change over time; installers should ensure that they are taking account of any changes prior to any installation.

*The method(s) for the installation of the EEM(s) originating from the product/system specification sheets or other such guidelines and information provided by the product or system manufacturer, supplier or design source for this purpose. Preference shall be given to material provided by the manufacturer or set out in the relevant Annex in this PAS.'*

In light of recent feedback from the manufacturers of products currently used to insulate the sloping ceilings of a room in roof, we consider that the current practice of insulating sloping ceilings would not be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and hence, would not be in accordance with PAS: 2030.

In order to claim that a RIRI measure has been installed in accordance with PAS 2030: 2014 Edition 1 or PAS 2030: 2017 Edition 1 from 1 April 2017 (the beginning of the ECO2t period), we expect that the installation of a RIRI is in line with the manufacturer's instructions and the prescribed installation methods for the product used.

We will check that these requirements are being met under technical monitoring and may choose to conduct an audit within the ECO2t period to ensure that RIRI measures are being installed in accordance with PAS 2030.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on the contact details listed above.

Yours faithfully,



Philippa Hulme  
Senior Manager (Technical)  
Energy Efficiency and Social Programmes